

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 047596
ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY D:WCHRISTOPHER:RVC
APPROVED BY D:WCHRISTOPHER
S/AB:DHPOPPER
S/S:O:SGOLDSMITH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 047596

STADIS////////////////////////////////////
EXDIS FOR AMB. JORDEN FROM CHRISTOPHER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PN, PEPR

SUBJECT: SENATOR ALLEN'S AMENDMENT

REF: STATE 46039

1. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT SENATOR ALLEN WILL BRING TO
A VOTE A SO-CALLED "KILLER" AMENDMENT TO THE NEUTRALITY
TREATY NEXT MONDAY. THE AMENDMENT WOULD ADD AT THE
END OF ARTICLE 1 THE FOLLOWING:

"PROVIDED, THAT THE MILITARY PRESENCE OF THE UNITED STATES
IN WHAT WAS THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE ON SEPTEMBER 7, 1977,
SHALL BE CONTINUED BEYOND DECEMBER 31, 1999, IF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES DEEMS IT NECESSARY FOR
THE DEFENSE OF THE CANAL OR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE NEU-
TRALITY THEREOF AND SHALL PRIOR TO DECEMBER 31, 1999, SO
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CERTIFY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA."

2. IY IS HARDLY NECESSARY TO TELL YOU THAT THE ALLEN
AMENDMENT IS COMPLETELY INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE TREATY.
THE VOTE ON IT WILL BE THE FIRST CRUCIAL TEST VOTE ON
THE TREATIES, AND WE WILL PULL OUT ALL THE STOPS TO
DEFEAT IT. TO THAT END, WE ARE CONSIDERING SUGGESTING

TO ONE OF THE UNCOMMITTED SENATORS THAT HE STATE DURING
THE DEBATE THAT AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME HE WILL OFFER
AN UNDERSTANDING ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

"THAT ARTICLE V DOES NOT PRECLUDE THE TWO PARTIES FROM
NEGOTIATING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE CON-
STITUTIONAL PROCESSES, AN AGREEMENT PROVIDING TO THE
REPUBLIC OF PANAMA AFTER THE YEAR 2000 SUCH
US MILITARY ASSISTANCE AS THE PARTIES MIGHT CONSIDER
DESIRABLE TO CARRY OUT THEIR MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITIES
UNDER ARTICLE IV TO MAINTAIN THE REGIME OF NEUTRALITY
OF THE CANAL, AND THE UNITED STATES SHALL INITIATE
DISCUSSIONS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA ON THIS SUBJECT
NOT LATER THAN ONE YEAR BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF THE
PANAMA CANAL TREATY."

3. KNOWING FROM YOUR PRIOR MESSAGES THAT SUCH AN
UNDERSTANDING WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO DIGEST IN PANAMA,
WE NEVERTHELESS WANT YOUR CURRENT APPRAISAL AND YOUR
SUGGESTIONS, ON AN URGENT BASIS, BY SECURE TELEPHONE
OR IMMEDIATE CABLE. VANCE
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Message Attributes

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